

THE IDENTITY OF *CHERMES ALNI* LINNÉ, 1758  
(Homoptera, Psyllidae)

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The purpose of this paper is to establish the zoological identity of *Chermes alni* Linné, 1758, as a psyllid, and to show that the names *Psylla* and Psyllidae are available for the groups generally known by these names. The presentation of such a paper seems desirable because of two recent publications by J. S. Caldwell (N. Y. Ent. Soc. Jour. 1944, 52: 335, and Ohio Jour. Sci. 1946, 46: 71-72) which state that *Chermes alni* Linné, 1758, is an aphid, and that *Psylla* and Psyllidae must be replaced by *Psyllia* and Psylliidae. Caldwell's contention that *alni* is an aphid appears to be based upon the erroneous assumption that the zoological identity of the species is to be determined entirely from the Kalm reference.

Linné described *Chermes alni* in Systema Naturae, 10th edition, 1758, p. 454, as follows:

"Alni. S. C. Betulae Alni. *Fn. svec.* 698. *Kalm. it.* 2. p. 275.

"*Frisch. ins.* 8. t. 13. Vermis suctorius Alni.

"*Reaum. ins.* 3. t. 25. f. 1. 2. 3.

"*Habitant in Betulae Alni ramulis Larvae, caudis plumosis tectae: in America septentrionali. Kalm.*"

From a nomenclatorial standpoint *Chermes alni* Linné dates from this description, and the name is validated by the descriptive matter contained in the citations as well as by that actually published in 1758. The descriptive matter published in 1758 is not adequate for the recognition of a species, and study of all the citations shows that more than one species was described, and that the insects in question occurred in Europe as well as in America. A careful search of the literature does not reveal that any author has fixed the zoological identity of *alni* by analysis of all the forms originally included and restriction of the name to one of the species covered by the original citations. Such analysis and restriction is therefore made by the present writer.

The *Chermes alni* described by Linné in Fauna Svecica, 1746, p. 214, no. 698, is a psyllid and has been so recognized by all workers quoting the citation. From Kalm's *En Resa til Norra America*, 1756, 2, p. 276, it is clear that Kalm believed he had observed the species described by Linné in 1746, for he stated, "*Chermes alni Linnei* Faun. Svec. 698."

It appears from present knowledge of North American insects, and especially from recent observations by Caldwell (Ohio Jour. Sci. 1946, 46: 71-72), that the insect referred to by Kalm was the aphid now known as *Prociphilus tessellatus* (Fitch). The insects illustrated by Frisch in Beschreibung von allerlen Insecten, 1730, 8: 29, table XIII, plate II, numbers 1, 2, 3, and not named, were psyllids. Their identity is positive if the figures are compared with the description (pp. 28-29). The insects from "hêtre" not named, but illustrated by Reaumur in Memoires pour servir a l'histoire des insectes, 1737, 3: 346-347, plate 26, figures 1, 2, 3, appear to be aphids.

It is evident that Linné's 1758 concept of *alni* included a member or members of the Aphidæ as well as the Psyllidæ. The present writer here restricts the zoological application of the name to the most definitive description, which is that of a psyllid in Fanna Svecica, 1746. Thus fixed, the zoological application of the name is in agreement with general usage since 1758.

Since *Chermes alni* Linné is the type of *Psylla* Geoffrey by designation of Latreille, the names *Psylla* and Psyllidæ should be retained for the groups which they have represented.

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#### MINUTES OF THE ENTOMOLOGICAL SOCIETY OF WASHINGTON, 564TH REGULAR MEETING, MAY 2, 1946

The 564th regular meeting of the Society was held on May 2, 1946 at 8 P. M. in Room 43 of the U. S. National Museum. President Weigel presided and there were 36 members and 13 visitors present. The minutes of the previous meeting were approved as read.

New members were elected as follows:

Ralph W. Bunn, Office of Chief of Engineers, U. S. War Department.  
Carlos S. Carbonell, Graduate Student, University of Maryland.  
Curtis W. Sabrosky, U. S. Public Health Service.

Miss Elizabeth Haviland, speaking in behalf of Dr. Cory and the Staff of the University of Maryland, invited the Society to College Park in June. It was voted to accept the invitation and hold the regular June meeting in the form of a picnic.

President Weigel reminded the Society that increased printing costs for the PROCEEDINGS make it even more essential to increase the membership.

Those present were pleased to hear a report from Mr. Rohwer on letters received from the Honorary President, Dr. L. O. Howard.